

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 395

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: EXPLORATION OF FORMULAE FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO  
KIM DONG-JO

REF: STATE 91742

1. FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER ON BLUE HOUSE  
BUGGING (SEPTEL), POLCOUNS CLARK DISCUSSED WITH MOFA AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR PARK SANG-YONG CURRENT STATE OF PLAY  
REGARDING RESOLUTION OF KIM DONG-JO MATTER. AS NOTED REFTEL,  
ROKG AUTHORITIES ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER STORY BY RICHARD  
HALLORAN ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES APRIL 9. POLCOUNS POINTED  
OUT THAT IT WOULD INDEED BE UNFORTUNATE SHOULD ROKG AT THIS  
JUNCTURE REACT EMOTIONALLY TO AN ARTICLE BY A REPORTER WHO HAS  
IN THE PAST BEEN CRITICAL OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN SEOUL.  
HE STRESSED THE STRIDES THAT AMBASSADOR KIM HAD ALREADY MADE  
IN WORKING TOWARD A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM AND THE BENEFITS  
TO BE GAINED FROM ENGAGING IN FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH JAWORSKI.  
TO THIS END HE URGED THAT ROKG CONTINUE PRESENT POSTURE  
OF COOPERATION IN ALLOWING AMBASSADOR KIM FLEXIBILITY IN  
MOVING FORWARD WITH THIS MATTER.

2. PARK AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE AND UNWISE  
FOR THE ROKG TO BASE ITS POSITION ON A REACTION TO A  
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SINGLE ARTICLE IN THE AMERICAN PRESS. HOWEVER, RESULT  
OF THE ARTICLE WOULD BE TO MAKE FLEXIBILITY MORE DIFFICULT  
TO OBTAIN. HE SAID THAT MOFA WAS CONCERNED THAT FOREIGN  
MINISTER'S POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE US WOULD  
BE ATTACKED IN COMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING AS HAVING FAILED. DESPITE ASSUREANCES  
THAT PROGRESS ON PARK TONG-SUN AFFAIR WOULD HELP, OPPOSITION

WAS BOUND TO NOTE THAT KIM MATTER AND BLUE HOUSE BUGGING CHARGES APPEARED TO BE DRIVING THE RELATIONSHIP IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. POLCOUNS URGED THAT ROKG MAKE EVERY EFFORT WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES TO ASSURE THAT SUCH WOULD NOT OCCUR. WITH RESPECT TO THE BLUE HOUSE BUGGING HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAD SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION IN HAND TO PUT THIS ISSUE TO REST. WITH RESPECT TO KIM MATTER POLCOUNS STATED BELIEF THAT ROKG COULD MAKE STRONG CASE THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT FURTHER EFFORTS ALONG THESE LINES SHOULD CONTINUE.

3. PARK STATED THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE ACHIEVED SINCE HIS REPORT ON AMBASSADOR KIM'S MEETING WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL WAS IN HIS VIEW POSITIVE. AMBASSADOR HAD OUTLINED FOR SPEAKER THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED FORMULA (ASSUME THIS IS TELEPHONE CALL FOLLOWED BY LETTER) AND AT THE SAME TIME MADE CLEAR THAT SOLUTION COULD NOT INVOLVE DIRECT CONFRONTATION OF KIM EVEN IN THIRD COUNTRY OR BE IN THE FORM OF DIRECT TESTIMONY. HE STATED THAT AMBASSADOR KIM BELIEVED SPEAKER WAS PERSONALLY RECEPTIVE TO PROPOSAL BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT JAWORSKI WOULD NOT BE AMENABLE. POLCOUNS ASKED IF THERE WERE CURRENT PLANS FOR AMBASSADOR TO SEE JAWORSKI AND URGED THAT THIS DIALOGUE BE CONTINUED. PARK SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE CURRENT PLANS FOR DIRECT DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR KIM AND JAWORSKI, RATHER

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HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT SPEAKER WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH BOTH CHAIRMAN FLYNT AND JAWORSKI.

4. I HAVE ALSO TAKEN STEPS TO HAVE KCIA OFFICIALS FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS MATTER ALONG LINES USED BY POLCOUNS ABOVE. WE MUST REMEMBER, HOWEVER, THAT TENSION IS RUNNING VERY HIGH HERE, NOT ONLY AS A RESULT OF HALLORAN ARTICLE BUT ALSO DUE TO FUROR OVER PORTER COMMENTS ON BLUE HOUSE BUGGING. WHILE WE MAY HAVE SOLVED THIS LATTER WITH RECENT LETTER, IT HAS STILL CHARGED THE ATMOSPHERE AND MADE MODERATION MORE DIFFICULT. DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO NOTE THAT I HAVE CHOSEN ONCE AGAIN TO WORK THROUGH DIRECTOR PARK, RATHER THAN RISK HAVING FOREIGN MINISTER'S RIGIDITIES BECOME A MATTER OF RECORD TO OUR DISADVANTAGE.

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## Message Attributes

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